Charlotte Mason's House of Education,
Scale How, Ambleside, UK, 2009

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Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada

A CALENDAR.

FEBRUARY.

OUR list for this month is still very incomplete, and leaves scope for each family to add some revered names. The choice is large, amongst the good of every age: in the Father's house there are many mansions. "Discipleship to Christ is not like the partizanship of the schools,—an exclusive devotion to partial truth, an exaggeration of some single phase of human life. Keeping us ever in the mental presence of the divinest wisdom and in veneration of a perfect goodness, it accustoms us to the aspect of every grace that can adorn and consecrate our nature; trains our perceptions instantly to recognize its influence or to feel its want. It looks with an eye of full and clear affection over the wide circle of human excellence. . . . . thrown as we are into reverence for no disproportioned and unfinished soul, we cannot but contract a catholic sympathy for every noble form assumed by our humanity. Philosophy and art, the statesman and the bard, the reformer and the saint, all take their place before us in the Providential sphere, and in proportion as they are faithful to their trust, draw from us an admiring recognition. We see in them selections from the exhaustless inspiration of the infinite wisdom: streaks of Divine illumination, rushing in through the cloud-openings of our world."

FEBRUARY.

1st.

2nd. Candlemas Day. Presentation of Christ in the Temple, and Purification of Virgin Mary. Collect. Epistle and Gospel.

3rd. St. Blaise. Add verse to hymn as above.

Of good St. Blaise, the brave and kind, we think with praise to-day,
The savage beasts were loved by him, and owned his gentle sway;
Woolcombers now remember the way in which he died,
And painters place an iron comb, as emblem, by his side.

4th.

5th. St. Agatha. Add verse to hymn as above.

With Agatha, majestic maid, the knowledge may we find
That will is free, and God is near, tho' men may scourge and bind;
That all the heart's reliance may ever stedfast be
On Christ the Rock which stands for aye. Lord, grant us constancy!

6th. St. Dorothea. Add verse to hymn as above.

For Dorothea's radiant soul, our song we now sustain,
Who for the heavenly roses, endured the thorny pain.
Give us her patient spirit, and grant Thy fruits and flowers
To bless the garden of our lives, for others' needs and ours.

7th.

8th. Birthday of John Ruskin. Read the following extract from his Works:—

"First, simply obeying the orders of the Founder of your religion, all grace, graciousness, or beauty and favour of gentle life, will be given to you in mind and body, in work and in rest. The Grace of Christ exists, and can be had if you will. Secondly, as you know more and more of the created world, you will feel that the true will of its Maker is that its creatures should be happy; that He has made everything beautiful in its time and place, and that it is chiefly by the fault of men, when they are allowed the liberty of thwarting His laws, that Creation groans or travails in pain. The dove of God exists and you may see it, and live in it if you will. Lastly, a spirit does actually exist which teaches the ant her path, the bird her building, and men, in an instinctive and marvellous way, whatever lovely arts and noble deeds are possible to them. Without it you can do no good thing. To the grief of it you can do many bad ones. In the possession of it is your peace and your power.

And there is a fourth thing of which we already know too much. There is an evil spirit whose dominion is in blindness and in cowardice, as the dominion of the spirit of wisdom is in clear sight and in courage.

And this blind and cowardly spirit is for ever telling you that evil things are pardonable, and you shall not die for them, and that good things are impossible, and you need not live for them; and that gospel of his is ever the loudest that is preached in your Saxon tongue. You will find some day, to your cost, if you believe the first part of it, that it is not true; but you may never, if you believe the second part of it, find, to your gain, that also, untrue; and therefore I pray you with all earnestness to prove, and know within your hearts, that all things lovely and righteous are possible for those who believe in their possibility, and who determine that, for their part, they will make every day's work contribute to them. Let every dawn of morning be to you as the beginning of life, and every setting sun be to you as its close—then let every one of these short lives leave its sure record of some kindly thing done for others—some goodly strength or knowledge gained for yourselves; so from day to day, and from strength to strength, you shall build up indeed, by Art, by Thought, and by Just Will, an Ecclesia of England, of which it shall not be said, 'See what manner of stones are here,' but 'See what manner of men.'"

9th.
10th.
11th.
12th.
13th.
14th.
15th.
16th.
17th.
18th.
19th.
20th.
21st. Cardinal Newman born. Sing "Lead, kindly Light."
22nd.
23rd.
24th. St. Matthias. See printed hymn. Collect. Epistle and Gospel.
25th.
26th.
27th.
28th.

BOOKS.

"En hoexkens ende boexkens."

Westward with Columbus, by Gordon Stables, R.N., illustrated by Alfred Pearse, 5*s*.

Gulliver's Travels, illustrated by Gordon Browne, 3*s*. Two new volumes of the extensive library of books for young people, which Messrs. Blackie and Sons are now publishing. This firm deserves high commendation for the excellent type and get-up of these books. The first narrates the stirring adventures of Columbus in the discovery of America —a story which, as the author says: every British and American lad ought to know. He says he has tried to steer clear of all things that youths do not like, and has told the story in language as plain and simple as he could command. He confesses to have woven into the story a little bit of romance which he rather oddly calls a *halo*. Do people then weave haloes? Young folk may, therefore, have a difficulty here and there in distinguishing between fact and fiction. This riddle, answered or unanswered, they will enjoy the exciting story and take in the main facts.

As to *Gulliver*, we never feel quite sure how the apparently inexhaustible interest of his wonderful adventures may not serve as the gilding of the pill of the Dean's somewhat cynical views of human nature. A healthy optimism, serenity, courage standing "four-square 'gainst all the winds that blow," a self-sacrificing spirit, high ideals, are not what one expects to find in the writings of Swift, and the process of noting "the several gradations by which corruption steals into the world," however useful it may be to enable grown men "to oppose it at every step," is not exactly a healthy exercise for the young. Still, *Gulliver* is an English classic, and will continue to be read, and this edition, although cheap, is a good one, and is a reprint of the first edition with sundry objectionable passages removed.

Nicola, or the Career of a Girl Musician, by M. Corbet-Semour, illustrated, 2*s*. 6*d*. This is another of the new juvenile books by the same publishers. It is a well meaning little work, but it would have been better had the good and self-sacrificing brother been gifted with a nobler ambition than merely to achieve success as a wealthy merchant, however useful such a career may be. Self-help, in the sense of taking care of number one, is made too prominent a motive now-a-days in numberless books.

"I have my art—that is enough," one (*i.e.*, Nicola) would have said.